

# WOMEN WHO ARE DOING THINGS

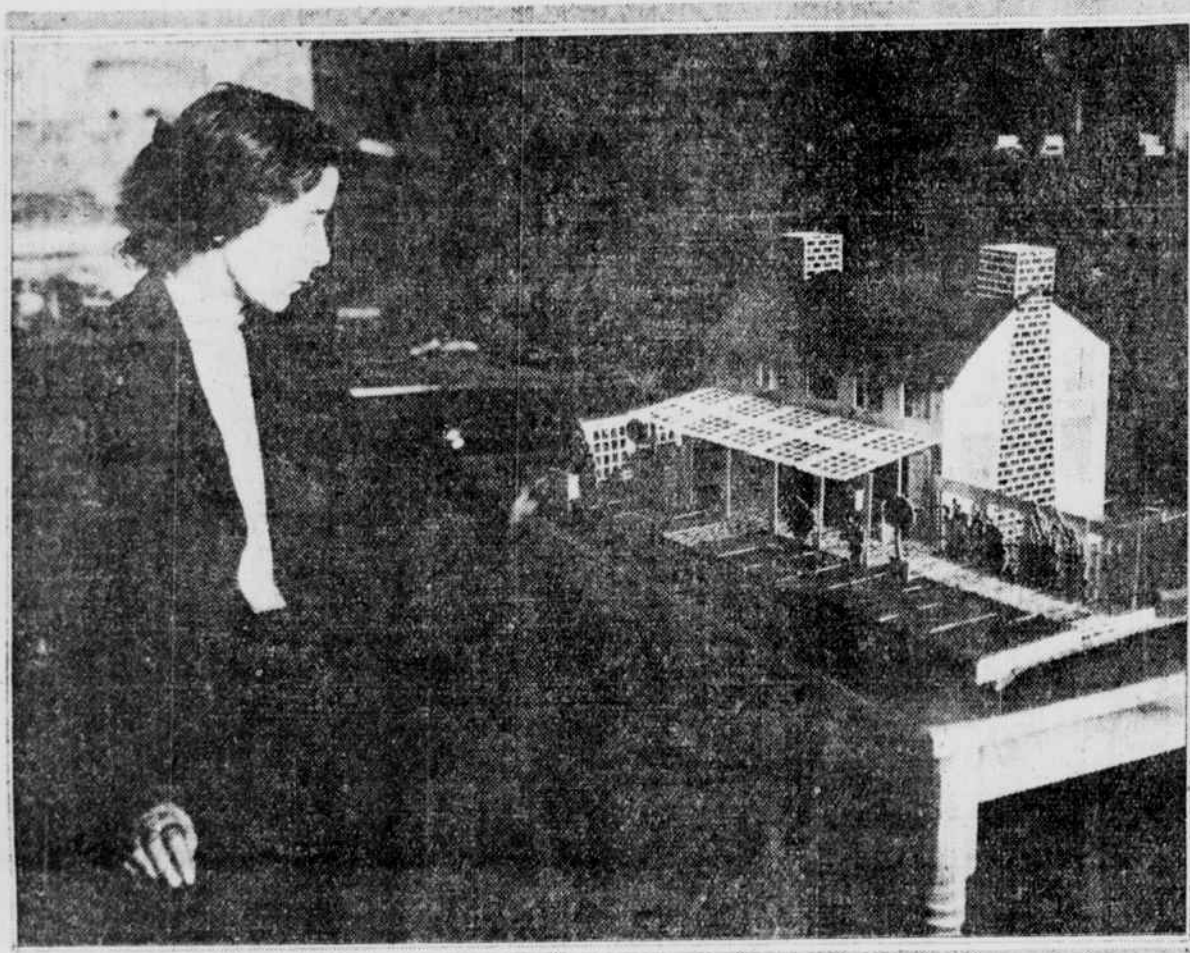


**Miss Frances Duncan, Gardening Authority, Creates a Marvellous Toy Which Has Definite Scientific Value Also—Only American Plaything Used in Montessori School.**

**T**O MANUFACTURE a toy would seem an insignificant achievement at best, yet one woman, at least, has found honor, romance, mon-

two fascinating as well as instructive garden books for children, and the lately published confession of a neurasthenic, which, under the title of

At No. 1 Miss Duncan has her tiny workshop and studio. Here are miniature villages, quaint, old-fashioned gardens, and elaborate terraced es-



MISS FRANCES DUNCAN, and specimen Gardencraft Houses and Grounds.

etary gain and happiness as a result of her effort.

The woman is Frances Duncan, the toy she invented is Gardencraft for Children; the fame came when Dr. Maria Montessori selected her invention as the one American toy she deemed worthy enough to take back with her to Italy; the romance when through her interest in toys she met Mr. John Manning, to whom she is now married, and the financial gain is attested by a busy workshop full of girls trying to fill all orders that come in from children anxious to have this most engrossing of playthings.

Toy's Foundation a Wooden Block.

Mrs. Manning, or, as she prefers to be called, Miss Duncan, built her structure upon that old foundation for the child's creative interest, the wood block. Each surface of the block shows a different substance; for instance, one may be grass, another turf, a third or fourth part of a lake, or a brick—all parts of a plan that when assembled become a country estate. Miss Duncan created the Garden Department in "The Ladies' Home Journal." It was in consequence of her experience on "The Ladies' Home Journal" that her Gardencraft toy came into being, for Miss Duncan saw the necessity of presenting garden plans to people in a form that they could understand; that the numbered scallops, for beds of herbaceous plants, the stars and circles for trees, did not, to the average reader, create in his mind a definite picture of real planting. They simply remained scallops and circles. Even the sculptor St. Gaudens told Miss Duncan he couldn't visualize a garden from a plan, and would lay out his paths with lath or tennis court tape and stick in a shrub, shifting these until the whole looked right.

Child Plants Garden Itself.

With this device of Miss Duncan's in Gardencraft for Children, as she calls it, a grown-up gardener can shift his plants and flowers and paths until it looks right in the miniature, as this toy, in all its varieties, is a genuine working model. And although its age is to be counted only by months, it is already used by many gardeners in various parts of the world.

In its short life this toy has been a beneficent gift to humanity, little and big, young and old, ill and well. Invalids who cannot leave their beds play with it and visualize their ideas. They make their gardens and look upon them. They change them and make new gardens every day.

Miss Duncan is an authority on gardening and horticulture, author of

"My Garden Doctor," ran anonymously, and has had the actual, practical working gardener's experience, serving her apprenticeship at a famous nursery on Long Island. She has in this work done everything, from "hoisting" a gang of men to laying out a garden, which is, perhaps, the reason for the marvellous accuracy of her toy.

In her toy Miss Duncan develops the gravity and joyousness of children and grown-ups with equal skill. Out into the great world, into the homes where children are, go farmhouses with gardens filled with flowers—old fashioned farmhouse flowers, or a chicken run, or both, with chickens on the point of clucking, but who never lay eggs except in the most expensive seasons; or a more pretentious country place, with its gardens and flowers, its pergola and garage; or, again, a country estate which is more extensive—and, incidentally, more expensive—still. And, later, the happy owners of these estates come back with money saved to expend it in more real estate, in the matter of another acre of land, perhaps, or two acres, or a greenhouse, or a tennis net, or some trellising, or fencing, or some more plants and flowers of a particular sort, or of every sort. And they go away happily, landowners of some consequence. And real chicken breeders, for instance, will not be satisfied other than with a separate chicken run for each breed. It is very engrossing; it is very alluring; it is very educational.

Her Educational Gift a Toy.

There is still a great deal of the little girl in Frances Duncan, the woman. That is why she is able to enter so wholeheartedly into the spirit of childhood. That is why her offering to life is a toy. It is a joyous offer. It is not whimsical; it is not caricatured; it is not ugly; it is not even funny. It is beautiful. It is joyous. It is educational.

The birthplace of the toy was Milligan place, a curious little court opening from Sixth av., near 10th st., with the entrance almost as concealed as the opening of a hidden chamber. This little court is all that is left of Milligan's lane, which, years ago, had pretty gardens front and back and ran from Greenwich av. to 11th st. It was then occupied by select and "genteel" New Yorkers. The group at Milligan's is still "select"—but different. There is Richard Duffy, the sculptor; his artist wife, Mary Chamberlain, of "The Survey"; Cornelia Swinnerton, the suffrage worker, and Mrs. Louis Saint-Gaudens, the sculptor.

tates against landscapes—against vigorous New Hampshire landscapes—done with floor paint, Miss Duncan

With her deft and supple fingers she swiftly carries out an idea of a moment just before. It is characteristic of her that she declares herself as having nothing to say on industrial conditions until she has satisfactorily solved her own problem of running a manufacturing plant under ideal conditions for the workers. She is trying the experiment of having work done in a summer camp, where the girls who work for her can have more freedom and healthful recreation than is possible in a New York workshop; for Miss Duncan does not believe that anything as joyous as a toy ought to come out of hardworked and over-driven young girls.

## ARE WOMEN PEOPLE?

By ALICE DUER MILLER.

### THE INFERIOR SEX.

It appears that in the recent election in New York four dead men, to say nothing of several who were ill in bed, took the trouble to vote.

Yet women can be kept from the polls, as the antis are always telling us, by nothing more serious than a little bad weather.

### HEADS, I WIN.

My Uncle Wilbur Simpson says That women are not ever brave. He says whenever things go wrong They drop this independent song. And call for men to save.

Yet when the doctor came to-day To vaccinate us, great and small, My Uncle Wilbur ran away. Whereas I thought his wife, Aunt May, Was not afraid at all.

I said: "But don't you think Aunt May Was brave about her vaccination?" He frowned and answered: "No; Great Scott! It seems these women haven't got The least imagination."

FELICIA.

### ANY WOMEN BUT AMERICAN WOMEN.

And now the Democratic party is preparing a bill granting independence to the Filipino—men, we assume. Some years ago Mr. Taft said:

"The fact is, not only among the Tagalogs, but among the Christian Filipinos, the woman is the active member of the family, so if you expect to confer political power upon the Filipinos, it ought to be conferred upon the women."

### DO YOU KNOW?

That the prize given annually in Philadelphia by the National Municipal League for the best essay on municipal government was won this year by a woman?

That at Columbia University this spring fifteen girls and only twelve men were elected to the academic honors of Phi Beta Kappa?

That at Ohio State University the proportion elected was fourteen girls and four men?

That at the University of Nebraska there were twenty-two women and only eight men chosen?

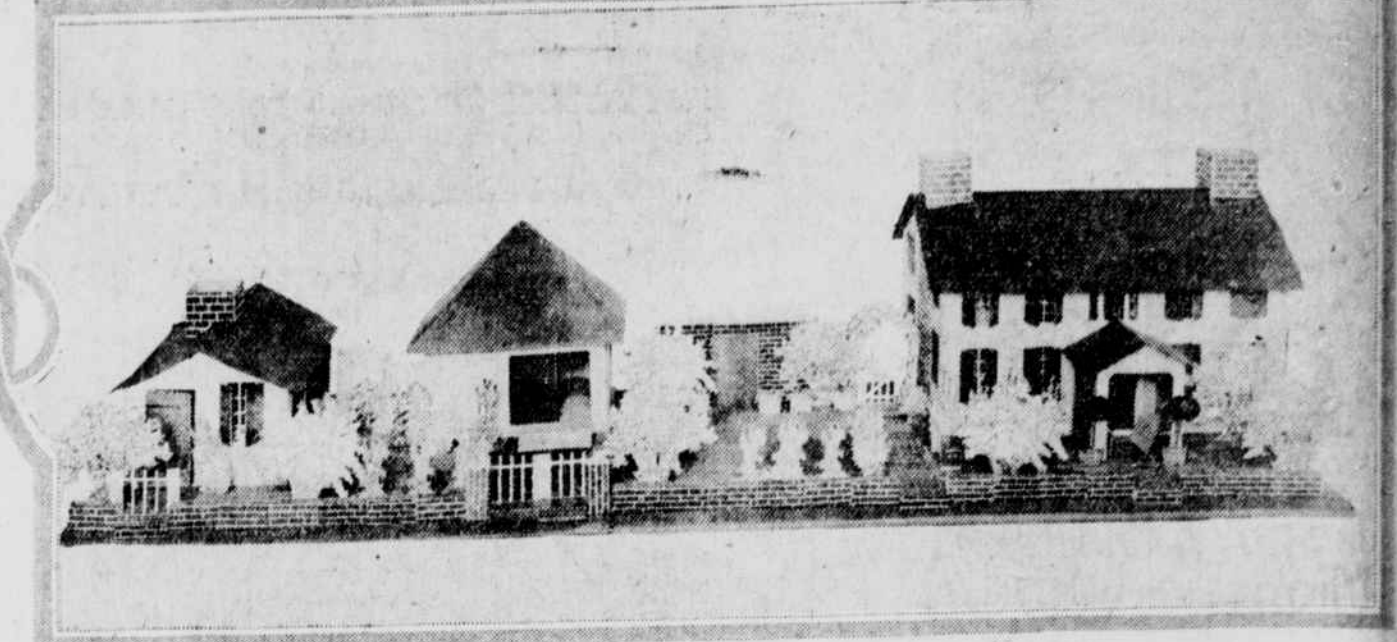
That a woman—and a suffragist—has won the \$10,000 prize for the best play, offered by Mr. Winthrop Ames?

### PREVIOUS OUTBREAKS OF HYSTERIA IN ENGLAND.

"It was only after five hundred men had gone to prison for a cheap press," says "The Nation," (London) "that the government reduced the stamp duty on newspapers from fourpence to a penny."

### BRAVE MEN AFTER AGAMEMNON.

A cowardly suffragette ("a suffragette disguised as a lady," as "The Sun" puts it) knelt at King George's feet during a recent drawing room and made a verbal



**A Wilful Scrap of Paper Started Mrs. Edith W. Pierce On Her Effective Career as Philadelphia's only Woman Street Cleaning Inspector.**

**I**NSIGNIFICANT things are sometimes responsible for important results. The truth of this is aptly illustrated by the story of Mrs. Edith W. Pierce, who is rounding out her first strenuous year as Philadelphia's "Woman White Wing."

A gust of wind blew a scrap of paper across City Hall courtyard under the very eyes of William Penn, standing at his post high above the city, watchful and waiting. For years Father Penn had seen paper blowing about the courtyard, and for years he had watched men and women pass by, heedless and unconcerned. This summer day the unexpected happened. A handsome, motherly woman, with soft, white hair above a young face, crossed the courtyard. Her dress was white and immaculately clean. She stood for a moment watching the paper. Perhaps, because she was watching, the paper suddenly began to display the total depravity characteristic of inanimate things. It took a leap and landed joyfully against a little girl's dainty dress. Without stopping to note the smudge it had left, the paper took another jump, twirled madly about in the air, then gently settled on an old lady's bonnet.

The Paper That Started the Idea.

The woman in white put down her suitcase and started after the paper. There was a chase, but finally she captured the elusive scrap and held it gingerly in a white gloved hand. She looked around for a waste can, but there was none in sight. A policeman came to her rescue and the woman in white returned to her suitcase. When she picked it up she glanced thoughtfully around and, on the instant, was born her idea. Mrs. Pierce had taken it upon herself to oversee the city's housekeeping. No longer was the in-

spection of the streets to be left to men whom politicians wanted to favor. A clever, well educated woman with a passion for that cleanliness which is next to godliness, was resolved to devote her knowledge and experience and her genius for organization to the task of keeping Philadelphia clean.

To think was to act, and Mrs. Pierce, then secretary of the Home and School League, began to carry out her campaign at once. The post of street cleaning inspector was the nearest to what she had in mind, and forthwith she decided to take the competitive civil service examination required. No woman had ever done so before, but that made no difference to Mrs. Pierce. At her request a call was made for women as well as men

began her organization of the 160,000 school children of the city.

There was already an organization in many schools called the League of Good Citizenship, which was fostered by the Civic Club for the purpose its name implies. Through this organization and others Mrs. Pierce enlisted the children in her army of helpers, Mayor Receives the Children.

Nor is the enthusiasm thus created allowed to die out. Mrs. Pierce writes frequent letters to the school principals, which are read to the pupils, and they are encouraged to keep in touch with Mrs. Pierce by letter. Ten thousand buttons in blue and gold on a white ground, bearing the seal of the city with the motto, "For Clean Streets," are being worn by 10,000 proud children. Leaflets written in



MRS. EDITH W. PIERCE, Philadelphia's Street Cleaning Inspector.

to take the examination, which was several weeks off.

Passes With Highest Mark.

In the meantime Mrs. Pierce began sending out leaflets, in the name of the Home and School League, urging the school children to help keep the streets clean. Public interest was aroused and the newspapers took up the cause. When the examination took place it was found that Mrs. Pierce had passed with a mark of 96, the highest average in a large number of contestants, several of whom were women. The appointment of Mrs. Pierce was confirmed at once, and in two weeks she had started on her new work.

The duties of a street cleaning inspector are confined to a certain district and include inspection of paving, cleaning and collection of refuse. But Mrs. Pierce did not want her work to be bounded by any lesser confines than the city limits. With the permission of Chief William H. Connell, director of highways, she mapped out a plan of action to take in all of Philadelphia.

Enlists School Children.

Although many of the inspectors were honestly trying to do their duty they were too few in number to accomplish very much. There was no money for more inspectors, so Mrs. Pierce turned to her little friends, the school children. "Let the children do the reporting," was her slogan. "Not only will it keep the department up to the mark and make for a clean city, but it will give the children themselves a better understanding of their duty as citizens." Acting on this, she

terms comprehensible to the child mind are sent to the children from time to time and on several occasions letters have been sent inviting the children to a meeting in the Mayor's reception room, where the genial Mayor, Rudolph Blankenburg, with his staff, receives the children with all due form but little formality.

Lantern slides showing actual conditions, "before and after" pictures of Philadelphia streets, are shown at these meetings and the children go home feeling themselves to be honored and valued members of an army of inspectors.

Has Added to City's Income.

By pointing out the value of waste and rubbish when separated from ashes Mrs. Pierce has already added an income of \$30,000 to the city which Philadelphia had never before realized. Superintendent of Police James Robinson recently requested Mrs. Pierce to give talks to the force, enlisting them in the campaign. Ordinances and state laws against throwing paper and refuse into the streets are now beginning to be enforced by the police and a general civic awakening has been the result.

Twenty speeches a week has been Mrs. Pierce's average since her appointment—the first of August, 1913—and she is even more enthusiastic than at first. She has been tireless in her efforts to make Philadelphia's streets a model for the entire country. Dressed in white from the top of her smart toque to the tip of her shoes, she is the embodiment of her cardinal principle, "Cleanliness is next to godliness."

petition. And yet, we are told, the heroic monarch "remained impassive."

The palace officials, on the other hand, are reported to be "on the verge of nervous prostration over the incident." And some of the American press seem to share their distress.

### LET'S BE THOROUGH.

If the only way for the English government to show its courage is to let the militant suffragists die, why would it not be braver still to go further, and kill off everybody who has subscribed to the militant union?

This, according to The Tribune, would include the Duchess of Teck, Princess Arthur of Connaught, the Princess Alexandra of Teck, the Princess Royal (sister to the King), Princess Christian, to say nothing of such minor characters as the Duchesses of Westminster, Portland and Marlborough.

### WE ONLY SAY IT SEEMS SO.

Statistics of the City of Berlin show that married men live longer than bachelors, whereas married women die sooner than spinsters.

It seems as if one sex were easier to live with than the other.

### FASHION NOTES: PAST AND PRESENT.

1880—Anti-suffrage arguments are being worn long, calm and flowing this year, with the dominant note that of women's intellectual inferiority.

1890—Violence is very evident in this season's fashions, and our more conservative thinkers are saying that woman suffrage threatens the home, the Church and the Republic.

1900—A complete change of style has taken place. Everything is being worn a la aristocrate, with the repeated assertion that too many people are voting already.

1914—The best line of goods shown by the leading anti-suffrage houses this spring is the statement that woman suffrage is the same thing as free love. The effect is extremely piquant and surprising.

### THE UNCONSCIOUS SUFFRAGIST.

"The new things in the world are the things that are divorced from force. The things that show the moral compulsion of the human conscience—those are the things by which we are building up civilization—not by force."

No, this is not a quotation from a suffrage speech, but part of President Wilson's address to the midshipmen.

### WE THINK WE KNOW THE ANSWER.

Speaking of the good old times, when white-haired mothers ruled over adoring homes, we wish to ask one question:

When a man called another "an old woman" in those days did he mean it as a compliment?